



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): Ping-Wen Ong
Case: 12
Serial No.: 09/342,408
Filing Date: June 28, 1999
Group: 2178
Examiner: Thu V. Huynh

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Signature [Signature] Date: May 19, 2003

Title: Method and Apparatus for Persistent Access to Web Resources
Using Variable Time-Stamps

APPEAL BRIEF

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Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAY 22 2003
Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Applicants hereby appeal the final rejection dated January 14, 2003, of claims 1 through 25 of the above-identified patent application. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith to bring references that were recently cited in a related application to the attention of the Examiner.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The present application is assigned to Lucent Technologies Inc., as evidenced by an assignment recorded on June 28, 1999 in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 010075, Frame 0950. The assignee, Lucent Technologies Inc., is the real party in interest.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

A Notice of Appeal was filed on June 12, 2002 in related United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/201,751 (Attorney Docket No. Ong 9) and an Appeal Brief was filed on October 21, 2002. An Examiner's Answer was issued on January 14,

2003 and a Reply Brief was filed on March 14, 2003. A Notice of Appeal was filed on January 24, 2002 in related United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/201,752 (Attorney Docket No. Ong 8) and an Appeal Brief was mailed on April 29, 2002. A new Office Action was mailed by the Examiner on August 1, 2002 in response to the Appeal Brief. A second Notice of Appeal was filed on March 12, 2003 in that related application and an Appeal Brief is being submitted simultaneously, herewith. A Notice of Appeal was also filed on March 12, 2003 in related United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/099,121 (Attorney Docket No. Ong 15) and an Appeal Brief is being submitted simultaneously, herewith.

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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 25 are pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. (United States Patent No. 6,006,227) in view of Bohannon et al. (United States Patent Number 6,125,371). In addition, Claims 4 and 16 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Bohannon et al. and further in view of Kisor et al. (United States Patent Number 5,78,847).

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STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

There have been no amendments filed subsequent to the final rejection.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for providing persistent storage of Web resources. Uniform Resource Locators ("URLs") that identify Web resources are augmented to include a time stamp. A web browser and a web server are disclosed that accommodate a time stamp parameter and allow a user to refer to any Web address with a precise target date. The persistent Web servers (i) receive URLs containing a time stamp, relative or variable time-stamp, (ii) extract the time stamp, (iii) retrieve the appropriate Web page(s) corresponding to the time-stamp, and (iv) return the appropriate page(s) or links to the client. Wildcard characters and date ranges can be

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used in the variable time-stamp to implement a variable time stamp when a user is not sure of the date for a specific web resource or wishes to specify more than one precise date and time. The persistent Web servers include a persistent archive for storing all of the versions of Web resources that will be persistently available to Web users.

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ISSUES PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

- i. Whether Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-25 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Bohannon et al.; and
- 10 ii. Whether Claims 4 and 16 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Bohannon et al. and further in view of Kisor et al.

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

15 The rejected claims do not stand and fall together. More particularly, for the reasons given below, Applicant believes that each of the dependent claims 2/14 provide independent bases for patentability apart from the rejected independent claims.

ARGUMENT

20 Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. (United States Patent No. 6,006,227) in view of Bohannon et al. (United States Patent Number 6,125,371).

The Examiner initially asserts that Freeman et al. teaches the steps of:

25 receiving a request for said electronic document, said request including a variable time-stamp (citing Freeman at col. 3, lines 15-29, receiving a request including a chronological indicator time stamp from a user); and
 identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp (citing Freeman at col. 4, lines
 30 43-46).

The Examiner thereafter appears to acknowledge that Freeman does *not* disclose identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable

time stamp. The Examiner further asserts, however, that Bohannon teaches the implementation of versioning and the use of time stamps to identify the different versions of the document (citing Bohannon at col. 5, lines 36-41 indicating “multiple versions...associated time stamps...associated with ones of multiple versions;” col. 5, lines 35-47).

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner argues that the combination of Freeman and Bohannon teaches the use of “time stamps and versioning to manage a history of document creation and update since this will provide the capability to identify the different versions of the documents.”

In the section of the Office Action entitled “Response to Arguments,” the Examiner asserts that Freeman discloses a find operation using a chronological expression such as “my last letter to Schwart,” “my next appointment,” etc. (Freeman, col. 4, lines 64-67) that inherently implies there is a timestamp in the user’s request for document retrievals. The Examiner also asserts that there is another specific feature in Freeman (Figure 1, box 20, as described at col. 6, lines 32-36) that shows the users selection of time-stamps while requesting the retrieval of documents.

Freeman / Bohannon Do Not Show A Time-Stamp In A User Request

Freeman et al. is directed to an operating system in which documents are stored in a chronologically ordered “stream.” As each document is presented to the operating system, the document is placed according to a time indicator in the sequence of documents already stored relative to the time indicators of the stored documents. Col. 1, lines 4-10. It is an express object of Freeman et al. to provide “an operating system in which the location and nature of file storage is *transparent to the user*, for example, the storage of the files is handled automatically **and file names are only used if a user chooses to invent such names.**” Even when a user does choose to “invent” file names, Freeman et al. does not disclose or suggest how such file names are used to retrieve documents or whether a request for such documents includes the file name and the time indication.

The Examiner referenced col. 3, lines 15-29, and col. 4, lines 43-46 of Freeman. These passages are directed to the creation and storage of user files and do not

disclose or suggest a user *request* for a document that includes a variable time-stamp,” as required by each of the claims of the present invention. The Examiner also referenced col. 13, lines 20-45, of Freeman, in rejecting some of the dependent claims. This passage discusses Web addresses, but not in connection with a user *request*. Rather, this passage
 5 describes the use of document streams to manage information (e.g., placing Web page bookmarks in a stream).

Bohannon et al. is directed to a database management system, and in particular, to techniques for aging versions of data records for deletion purposes to increase memory capacity. While Bohannon assigns time stamps to data records in a
 10 database, it is for the purpose of deleting records having multiple versions in response to the time stamp. The time stamping appears to be an internal, transparent process initiated by the Bohannon system upon an update to an existing data record. There is no suggestion that such time stamps are even provided or known to the user and there certainly is no suggestion that such time stamps are employed in a *user request* for a data
 15 record to identify a particular version.

Freeman/Bohannon Do Not Enable Requesting a Particular Document
 Corresponding to a Specific Time

Freeman defines a "stream" as a "time-ordered sequence of documents
 20 that functions as a diary of a person or an entity's electronic life. Every document created and every document sent to a person or entity is stored in a main stream." Col. 4, lines 6-10. Freeman also teaches that "substreams, unlike conventional, virtual or fixed directories which only list filenames, present the user with a stream 'view' of a document collection. This view, according to Freeman, contains all documents that are relevant to
 25 the search query. Also, unlike searches of conventional fixed directories, the substream is generated by default from all the documents in the main stream." Col. 4, lines 51-58. Thus, Freeman teaches that streams and substreams contain many different documents. Freeman does not disclose or suggest that a mainstream or substream contain only different versions of the same document. Therefore, when a request for a document is
 30 made from a mainstream or substream utilizing the scroll bar 20, the user cannot request a *particular* document, but can only request *any* document at a specific time. Independent claim 1 requires "receiving a request for *said electronic document*, said

request including a variable time-stamp; and *identifying versions of said electronic document* corresponding to said variable time-stamp.”

Person Of Ordinary Skill Would Not Look To Freeman Or Bohannon

5 As indicated in the Background section of Freeman et al., Freeman et al. expressly “**teaches away**” from conventional operating systems where a “file must be ‘named’ when created and often a location in which to store the file must be indicated resulting in unneeded overhead.” Col. 1, lines 40-44. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art of the present invention would not look to Freeman et al. for a solution to the
10 problem of supplementing an address (or file name) so that it differentiates versions of a multiple version document. The present invention, on the other hand, extends conventional file naming or addressing schemes (where an electronic document is identified using a file name or address) to include the *variable time stamp* that differentiates various versions of the document.

15 Similarly, Bohannon et al. is directed to the non-analogous field of a database management system that employs techniques for *aging* versions of data records for *deletion* purposes to increase memory capacity. The present invention is not interested in deleting any version of a multiple version document, but rather, in maintaining such multiple versions and making them accessible to a user. The present
20 invention provides a convenient mechanism for a user to uniquely identify a particular one of such multiple versions. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art of the present invention would not look to Bohannon et al. for a solution to the problem of supplementing an address (or file name) so that it differentiates versions of a multiple version document.

25 Kisor et al. has been cited by the Examiner for its disclosure of a URL having an associated request header for indicating a time stamp. Citing col. 3, lines 50-59, and col. 7, lines 21-25. The time stamp that is referenced in the passage on col. 3 indicates a date of last modification of a web page, and is used to determine when to refresh a web page. There is no suggestion in Kisor et al. that a request for an electronic
30 document includes a variable time stamp, as required by the present invention.

Thus, Freeman et al., alone, or in combination with Bohannon et al. and/or Kisor et al., does not disclose or suggest that a *request* for an electronic document includes a “variable time stamp, and identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp,” as required by each of the independent
5 claims.

Conclusion

Thus, Freeman et al., alone, or in combination with Bohannon et al. or Allard et al., does not disclose or suggest that a *request* for a version of an electronic
10 document includes an “variable time stamp, and identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp,” as required by each of the independent claims, as amended.

The rejections of the independent claims under section §103 in view of Freeman or Bohannon, alone or in any combination, are therefore believed to be
15 improper and should be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2 and 4 specify a number of limitations providing additional bases for patentability. Specifically, the Examiner rejected Claims 2 and 14 under 35 U.S.C.
20 §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman in view of Bohannon et al. Claims 2 and 14 require “an address identifying said electronic document includes said time-stamp.” The Examiner asserts that Freeman teaches an address identifying said electronic document includes said time-stamp (col. 3, lines 25-30 and col. 13, lines 20-45).

Freeman, including the text cited by the Examiner, does not suggest or
25 disclose an address that includes a time-stamp. The first citation (col. 3, lines 25-30) recites “the step of displaying the streams may further include the steps of: (1) receiving from a user one or more values indicative of one or more selected segments of the streams corresponding to selected intervals of time; and (2) displaying the segments of the streams corresponding to the selected intervals of time.” There is no mention of
30 addresses that include time-stamps. The second citation (col. 13, lines 20-45) addresses

the use of web addresses as bookmarks. It does not suggest or disclose an address that includes a time-stamp.

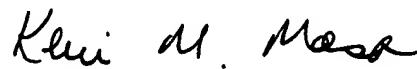
As previously indicated, while Bohannon assigns time stamps to data records in a database, it is for the purpose of deleting records having multiple versions in response to the time stamp. There is no suggestion that such time stamps are even provided or known to the user and there certainly is no suggestion that such time stamps are employed in a *user request* for a data record to identify a particular version.

Thus, Freeman or Bohannon et al., alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "an address identifying said electronic document includes said time-stamp," as required by claims 2 and 14.

The remaining rejected dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with respect to the independent claims.

The attention of the Examiner and the Appeal Board to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully,



Date: May 19, 2003

Kevin M. Mason
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 36,597
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 255-6560

APPENDIX

1. A method for providing an electronic document, said electronic document having multiple versions, each of said versions having a time-stamp, said
5 method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for said electronic document, said request including a variable time-stamp; and

identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp.

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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein an address identifying said electronic document includes said time-stamp.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said address is a Uniform Resource Locator.

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4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said Uniform Resource Locator as an associated request header for indicating said variable time stamp.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said request is specified using a browser.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said request includes a relative time stamp.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said variable time-stamp
25 includes a wildcard character.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said variable time-stamp includes a date range.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a list of the web resources that satisfy said variable time stamp.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said variable time-stamp
5 can be utilized to identify a version of said electronic document having an unknown time.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of displaying a list of said versions satisfying said variable time stamp.

12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of
10 displaying said list of links in an order specified by a user.

13. A system for storing an electronic document having multiple versions, said system comprising:

a memory for storing said multiple versions of said electronic document in
15 an archive of electronic documents; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:

receive a request for one of said versions of said electronic document, said request including a variable time-stamp; and

20 identify versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein an address identifying said electronic document includes said time-stamp.

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15. The system according to claim 14, wherein said address is a Uniform Resource Locator.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said Uniform Resource
30 Locator has an associated request header for indicating said variable time stamp.

17. The system according to claim 13, wherein said request is specified using a browser.

18. The system according to claim 13, wherein said request includes a
5 relative time stamp.

19. The system according to claim 13, wherein said variable time-stamp includes a wildcard character.

20. The system according to claim 13, wherein said variable time-stamp
10 includes a date range.

21. The system according to claim 13, wherein said processor is further configured to display a list of the web resources that satisfy said variable time stamp.
15

22. The system according to claim 13, wherein said variable time-stamp can be utilized to identify a version of said electronic document having an unknown time.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said processor is further configured to display a list of said versions satisfying said variable time stamp.
20

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein said processor is further configured to display said list of links in an order specified by a user.

25. An article of manufacture for accessing an electronic document, said
25 article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising program code means for causing a computer to:

receive a request for one of said versions of said electronic document, said
30 request including a variable time-stamp; and

identify versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp.



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): Ping-Wen Ong
Case: 12
Serial No.: 09/342,408
Filing Date: June 28, 1999
Group: 2178
Examiner: T. Huynh

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Signature: [Signature] Date: May 19, 2003

Title: Method and Apparatus for Persistent Access to Web Resources Using Variable Time-Stamps

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAY 22 2003

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Submitted herewith are the following documents relating to the above-identified patent application:

- (1) Appeal Brief (original and two copies); and
- (2) Copy of Notice of Appeal, filed on March 12, 2003, with copy of stamped return postcard indicating receipt of Notice by PTO on March 17, 2003.

There is an additional fee of \$320 due in conjunction with this submission under 37 CFR §1.17(c). Please charge **Deposit Account No. 50-0762** the amount of \$320, to cover this fee. In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 50-0762** as required to correct the error. A duplicate copy of this letter and two copies of the Appeal Brief are enclosed.

Respectfully,

Kevin M. Mason

Date: May 19, 2003

Kevin M. Mason
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 36,597
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 255-6560



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Receipt in the USPTO is hereby acknowledged of:

Transmittal Letter – (Original & 1 copy)
Notice of Appeal - (Original & 1 copy)

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MAR 24 2003



Case Name: Ong 12
Serial No.: 09/342,408

1200-284

March 12, 2003 KMM



Ong 12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant(s): Ping-Wen Ong
Case: 12
Serial No.: 09/342,408
Filing Date: June 28, 1999
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Signature: *Line 12* Date: March 12, 2003

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

MAY 22 2003

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Respectfully,

Kevin M. Mason

Date: March 12, 2003

Kevin M. Mason
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 36,597
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06430
(203) 255-6560